



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

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Contact: Jean Kelly

Phone: 225-219-3966

Air Quality Alert issued for New Orleans due to marsh fire near New Orleans East

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality declared an Action Day for the New Orleans area, yesterday, for fine particle pollution (PM 2.5) due to a burning marsh fire near I-110 and I-510. The national weather service alerted eight southeastern parishes about the smoky haze and prevailing winds took the smoke over the Westbank and New Orleans Metropolitan area.

The Action Day means that the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups and the PM 2.5 is predicted to be in the Orange level on the Air Quality Index. Because the fire will be burning, and depending on the wind direction, air quality alerts and Action Days will be called as needed.

An Action Day means that the air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups. Increasing particle levels may cause unhealthy air quality. Active children, the elderly and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor activities and exertion. The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals advises that individuals with asthma, allergies, and other respiratory conditions should avoid prolonged exposure to the smell and continue to follow their treatment plans as determined by their health care providers. If they become symptomatic, they should seek medical advice from their health care provider. Individuals bothered by the smell should go indoors to minimize exposure. Be sure your vehicle's and your home's air conditioning systems are set to recirculate air.

The marsh fire, which is in an isolated area, is burning subsurface and is inaccessible by land.

For information about air quality and for air quality forecasts, go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2505/Default.aspx>

Citizens and the regulated community can contact the SPOC line to report environmental concerns during business hours, at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

To sign up for air quality alerts, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash